

73. (New) Isolated DNA comprising DNA encoding RNA that is processed in eukaryotic cells to RNA segments of about 21 to about 23 nucleotides in length that inactivate a corresponding gene by transcriptional silencing.
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74. (New) Isolated DNA comprising DNA encoding RNA that is processed in eukaryotic cells to RNA segments of about 21 to about 23 nucleotides in length that mediate RNA interference of mRNA of a gene.
75. (New) Isolated DNA comprising DNA encoding RNA that is processed in eukaryotic cells to RNA segments of about 21 to about 23 nucleotides in length that target mRNA of a protein for degradation.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to more fully claim Applicants' invention. Claims 51-75 have been added. Support for Claims 51-75 can be found, for example, on page 2, line 11; page 4, lines 2-4 and 8-16; page 5, lines 13-14 and lines 21-24; page 14, lines 9-10; page 15, lines 15-16; page 18, lines 9-12; page 34, line 23; and original Claims 5, 13 and 36.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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